

Elimination of the morse code requirement for General class operators removes an unnecessary hurdle to gain HF operating privileges. The morse code requirement no longer meets any real-world need, and in itself does nothing to ensure the ability or competence of an operator.

Retention of the requirement to upgrade from Technician to General class to gain HF operating privileges, and retention of the morse code requirement for Extra class privileges, is consistent with an incentive licensing scheme that requires applicants to demonstrate increasing levels of knowledge and operating ability.